

Questions & Responses

Request for Proposals: FY 2007 Grants for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects Maine Department of Environmental Protection

May 19, 2006

Maine Department of Environmental Protection issued the RFP on April 14, 2006. The Department accepted questions in writing about the RFP until May 15th. Seven (7) questions were received. This Questions and Responses document is posted on the MDEP website at: http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwq/docgrant/319_files/rfp.htm

Question #1. Does proposal for a NPS Watershed Project need to provide a quantitative estimate of the amount of NPS pollutant load reduction that will be achieved by the project?

Response: No. DEP welcomes a quantitative estimate, but that is not required. DEP relies on consideration of the proposal information requested in the instructions such as: extent of problem/need (number / significance of NPS sites based on a watershed survey); extent of proposed implementation of BMPs (number / significance of NPS sites proposed be treated); and relative significance to waterbody (size, water quality conditions, sensitivity). Refer to Section 2.1 A (pg 6) of the RFP.

Question #2. Would DEP value a proposal that provides a quantitative estimate the amount of NPS pollutant load reduction that will be achieved by the project?

Response: Yes, provided the proposal indicates the quantitative estimate is based on competent evaluation (extent of NPS sites to be treated, basis for ascribing reduction estimates for NPS sites, etc)

Question #3. Can work completed in 2006 qualify as nonfederal match for a project that would begin in 2007?

Response: No. Costs must be incurred during the period of time the NPS grant agreement is effective (between the effective date and the expiration date of the grant agreement).

Question #4. A couple of years ago, we requested that Cove Brook and its watershed be included in the list of Priority Watersheds, with the justification that it was one of the eight DPS rivers for the Endangered Atlantic Salmon. We are now preparing a proposal, in cooperation with the Town of Winterport, to correct significant NPS issues in the watershed. In reviewing the proposal, I noted that Cove Brook was not listed on the RFP. Is this an oversight, or was there a reason that Cove Brook was not included?

Response: The currently applicable list was issued in 1998. RPP evaluation (points scoring) will be based on the 1998 list. DEP plans to revise the list by yearend 2006. DEP anticipates Cove Brook will be added to the list when it is updated because it is one of the eight DPS rivers for the endangered atlantic salmon.

Question #5. Kennebunk Beach experiences occasional bacteria levels that impacts swimming. The town may develop a proposal for a NPS Watershed Survey. Can they propose a task to use grant funds to setup a plan to help solve the problem?

Response: Yes. The methodology described in DEP's publication "Citizens Guide to Coastal Watershed Surveys", May 1996 (Chapter 7) recommends development of an "Action Plan" to address NPS problems found in the survey. However, the core work in the watershed survey project is the survey and assessment activities to identify the NPS sites in the watershed. A modest portion of the project work could be preparing an action plan.

Question #6. Can 319 grant funds be used to purchase conservation materials (such as erosion control mix, plant materials, etc) for resale to the landowners to install BMPs an any sites in the watershed?

Response: No. Any NPS site treated with materials paid by the grant needs to be an eligible NPS site under the project work plan and be documented as the project proceeds. If materials purchased under the grant are resold to a landowner for use at an eligible NPS site under the project work plan, then the grantee is obliged to comply with applicable "program income" requirements, see the Federal Code of Regulations 40CFR Part 31.25.

website <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=%2Findex.tpl>

Question #7. Can we propose a NPS Watershed Survey Project in a TMDL watershed even if there will not be an EPA Watershed-Based Plan completed by January 2007?

Response: Yes. The prerequisite for an EPA Watershed-Based Plan in TMDL waters applies to an NPS Watershed Project. This prerequisite does not apply to conducting a NPS Watershed Survey Project.

End.